

Remarks

The present Amendment is made in response to the non-final Office Action dated February 11, 2008, and identified as Paper No. 20090206. Claims 7-17 are pending.

In the Action, the Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Examiner also rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Anderson (U.S. Patent No. 2,843,267). Claims 8-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson in view of Greig et al (US Patent No. 4,260,489) and Schmidt, Jr. et al (US Patent No. 3,438,502).

I. Claim Amendments/Section 112 Rejections

Applicant has amended claim 7 to recite that the compartment has a female connector and a bracket mounted therein, and a door for enclosing the compartment. Claim 7 has also been amended to recite that the tubular rack has cam followers engaging the bracket, thus providing the structure for allowing the rack to be moved into and out of the compartment. Finally, claim 7 has been amended to recite that the male and female connectors are engaged when the rack is in the compartment, and disengage when the rack is withdrawn from the compartment, which results from claimed structure that the female connector is fixedly mounted in the compartment and the male connector is on the rack.

II. Rejections in view of Cited Art

None of the cited references disclose structural arrangement recited in claim 7. In particular, Anderson fails to at least two express claim elements.

First, Anderson does not disclose a female connector *fixedly mounted in the compartment*. This was also the case in claim 7 prior to the Amendments, and the Examiner


erred in finding this structure in Anderson as the female connector of Anderson is clearly not *fixedly* mounted in the compartment *because it moves out of the compartment*. Anderson has a female connected mounted to the cover, not the inside of the compartment as with the claimed invention, that clearly moves when the cover is opened and moved outwardly. The connector of Anderson is therefore clearly not *fixedly* mounted in the compartment as required by claim 7 because it actually leaves the compartment

Second, Anderson does not disclose male and female connectors that engage when the rack is positioned in the compartment and disengage when the rack is slid out of the compartment (using the brackets and cam followers that are not specifically recited in the claims). As the Examiner specifically pointed out in Anderson, an arm has to be moved between first and second positions in order to release the male connector from the non-fixed female connector after the rack is pulled out of the tank. The disengagement simply does not occur as a result of a fixed female connector in the compartment and a moveable male connector on the rack when it is slid out using the cam followers and brackets as required by claim 7.

In view of the foregoing amendments as supported by these remarks, the Examiner's reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will expedite handling of the present application, please contact the undersigned at (315)218-8515.

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Respectfully submitted,

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